

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph number "[40]", which bridges pages 18-19 as follows [A clean sheet of amended paragraph [40] appears on the next consecutive page]:

[40] The batch is then heated to a temperature of 85 °C and is pre-soaked for 15 hours under constant stirring and maintaining of the temperature. Following this, a mixture containing 12.5 kg nitroglycerin and 0.25 kg 2-nitrodiphenyl amine, dissolved in 60 liter ethanol, is added drop by drop during a 30-minute interval at a temperature of 80 °C. The treatment then continues for 2 1/4 hours at an optimum baking mixture setting (propellant powder bed completely suspended). During a 15-minute interval, a suspension containing 1.97 kg of a non-solid polyester that is highly viscous at room temperature and has a molecular weight of 3000 in 30 kg water (the polyester ~~is water soluble and~~ functions as desensitizer) is subsequently added drop by drop. The mixture is then allowed to process for another 2 hours at a temperature of 80 °C and under constant stirring. Following this, the pressure in the reactor tank is slowly reduced to 600 mbar and a portion of the solvent is distilled out of the batch. The vacuum is then broken and the batch cooled down to room temperature. The bottom valve is opened and the remaining liquid components are allowed to drain out. The remaining moist powder mass is stirred continuously with 100 liter fresh water over a period of 2 hours while the heating is turned off. Following this, the liquid components are again drained out through the bottom valve and the remaining moist powder matrix is removed from the reactor.

CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED PARAGRAPH [40]

[40] The batch is then heated to a temperature of 85 °C and is pre-soaked for 15 hours under constant stirring and maintaining of the temperature. Following this, a mixture containing 12.5 kg nitroglycerin and 0.25 kg 2-nitrodiphenyl amine, dissolved in 60 liter ethanol, is added drop by drop during a 30-minute interval at a temperature of 80 °C. The treatment then continues for 2 1/4 hours at an optimum baking mixture setting (propellant powder bed completely suspended). During a 15-minute interval, a suspension containing 1.97 kg of a non-solid polyester that is highly viscous at room temperature and has a molecular weight of 3000 in 30 kg water (the polyester functions as desensitizer) is subsequently added drop by drop. The mixture is then allowed to process for another 2 hours at a temperature of 80 °C and under constant stirring. Following this, the pressure in the reactor tank is slowly reduced to 600 mbar and a portion of the solvent is distilled out of the batch. The vacuum is then broken and the batch cooled down to room temperature. The bottom valve is opened and the remaining liquid components are allowed to drain out. The remaining moist powder mass is stirred continuously with 100 liter fresh water over a period of 2 hours while the heating is turned off. Following this, the liquid components are again drained out through the bottom valve and the remaining moist powder matrix is removed from the reactor.